



One Hundred Ninth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515

July 15, 2005

The Honorable J. Dennis Hastert
The Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Hastert:

The Department of Homeland Security was created on a bipartisan basis more than two years ago with the mission of protecting America against terrorism here at home. Congress has an obligation to ensure that the Department is accountable to the American people for making America as secure against terrorism as possible. At the same time, Congress is accountable to the American people for making sure that their tax dollars are spent to truly enhance homeland security. This is why Congress set deadlines for the Department and required it to submit reports on progress on security programs.

Since its inception, the Committee on Homeland Security has been charged with oversight of the Department of Homeland Security. During our oversight, we have found that the Department has yet to issue reports that are now overdue. Of the reports yet to be issued, several are critical to "mapping out" the government's strategy in key homeland security areas. These reports allow Congress and the American people to measure how prepared we are at home.

Attached is a review of reports that appear to be "missing in action" and an explanation of why it is important that the Department of Homeland Security deliver these reports to Congress. We would appreciate your help in holding the Department accountable to all Americans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bennie G. Thompson".

Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kendrick B. Meek".

Kendrick B. Meek
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Management,
Integration & Oversight